

REMARKS

On page 2 of the Action, claims 1 and 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. In view of the rejection, claims have been amended to obviate the rejection.

On page 3 of the Action, claims 1, 2, 4 and 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bunney et al.

In this respect, claims 1, 2, 4 and 7 have been amended to clarify the features of the invention, and new claims 10 and 11 have been filed.

In Bunney et al., as explained before, the IRC protocol and the current IRC servers have some limitation regarding privacy, and the base nine character user nickname is inadequate in regard to the security. In order to solve this problem, in Bunney et al., in chartering, name is translated from any name address containing more than nine characters to nicknames with nine characters compatible with IRC, and translating back to identities with addresses of more than nine characters.

The features of Bunney et al. as stated above are entirely different from those of the invention.

In Bunney et al., it is explained that "The databases 10, 11 can contain sensitive private information about members. Security will be implemented by isolating the process servers 8, 9 on a network having an IP address of the form 10.x.x.x. Routers 12 cannot connect directly to such a network. Instead, the network 2 is connected to a hub 15 connected to a bridge 14 which in turn connects to another hub 13. The hub 15 is on a network 2 to which routers 12 can connect."

Therefore, the IP address of the user is not controlled when passing through the bridge 14. In the invention, the IP address, ID and the channel are controlled over the servers. This is not disclosed in Bunney et al.

In Bunney et al., it is explained at column 11, lines 49-60 that "According to the present invention semi-private chat rooms (within an additional access control) can be provided. Therefore, a menu-driven interface is provided to add access control to private and semi-private chat. An access control data base 43 which is not

part of the IRC server 40 is provided within a server 1. When a chat client 20 issues requests to join a chat in the standard IRC manner, an access control is first performed by the chat proxy 39, and then upon successful access the name translation as stated above is performed."(emphasis added)

Further, in Bunney et al., it is explained from column 11, line 63 to column 12, line 7 that "When a user creates a chat, the user is first authenticated whether he is an authorized member. Then the user is prompted to supply attributes that will further define the chat to be created, as for example description, categories (interest groups) and the type of chat (on going, periodic, temporary, fixed one-time). These attributes are available from the chat proxy 39 by issuing a command, which allows the chat client the access to the directory service's data base without having to use a direct access protocol. The attributes of the chat may be changed using another command to the chat proxy 39 as well as via a direct access to the DS (directory service 27) data base."(emphasis added)

In Bunney et al., as stated above, chat can be created, but it is possible to join the chat by the standard IRC manner, directory service's data base or direct access protocol. The basic structure or process other than that the address is changed to nickname is conventional.

In the claims of the invention, selecting the subscribers, distributing participant recruiting information to the subscribers currently connected to the network, receiving the participation acceptance information and so on are specified, as well. These specific features are not disclosed in Bunney et al. Claims pending in the application are not anticipated by Bunney et al.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Two month extension of time is hereby requested. A credit card authorization form in the amount of \$225.00 is attached herewith for the two month extension of time.

Serial No. 10/089,840

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